

## Directory of DOD Public Health Laboratory Services



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## **DoD Directory Announces Tighter Security Features**

The Directory of DoD Public Health Laboratory Services has added additional security levels, thus

further scaling back access to the information contained within the Directory's listings. The introduction of a new security level is a result of the increased interest in the Directory and a leap in the number of registered users.

Since it's introduction, the Directory's security features have been designed to assign particular access

privileges to an individual based upon the information provided during registration. This information is then subjected to an independent validation by the Directory staff, confirming the identity of the individual and their intentions for searching the Directory.

The new system features an added fourth level of access privileges, now only authorizing read-only rights

for the agent and disease categories, while completely restricting laboratory information. The Directory's security levels now range from restricted viewing privileges to the ability to edit and view laboratories. Only valid military and DoD personnel are initially granted access to view laboratories' detailed contact information and testing capacities. If you find that your

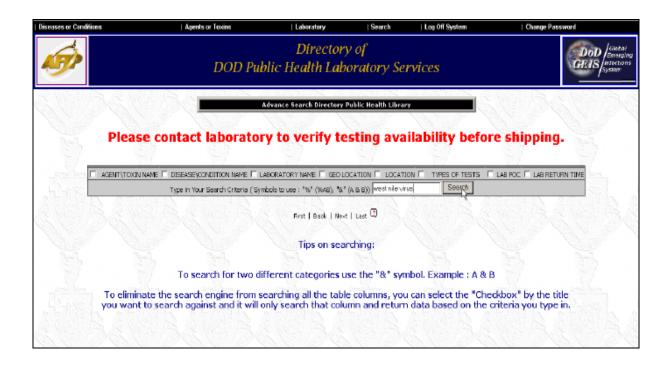
privileges have been downgraded and no longer provide the degree of access needed, please contact Twee Luong with the Directory of DoD Public Health Laboratory Services at <a href="mailto:luongt@afip.osd.mil">luongt@afip.osd.mil</a> or 202.782.2838 in order to upgrade your directory access privileges.



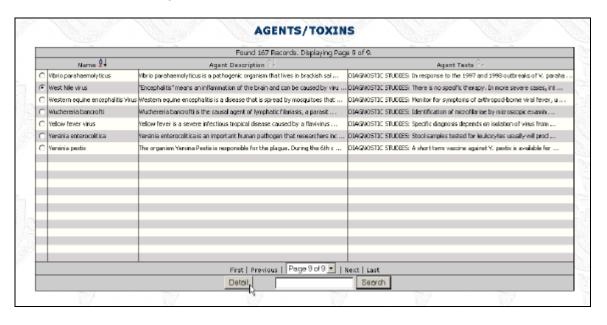
West Nile encephalitis is an infection of the brain caused by the West Nile virus, a flavivirus commonly found in Africa, West Asia, and the Middle East. The term "Encephalitis" refers to an inflammation of the brain and can be caused by both viruses and bacteria, including the viruses commonly transmitted by mosquitoes. Currently, several of the DoD's military

medical facilities and associated laboratories are capable of testing for the West Nile virus. In order to demonstrate the relative ease of the Directory's maneuverability, this month's tutorial provides step-by-step instructions on how to search, navigate, and locate comprehensive information about a particular agent or disease

- In order to access the system with a user name and password, laboratory and medical personnel must first register
  with the DoD Directory of Public Health Services. This can be accomplished by accessing the main website at
  <a href="http://198.97.78.142/vphl/VPHLASP/LoginAdmin.asp">http://198.97.78.142/vphl/VPHLASP/LoginAdmin.asp</a>, scrolling down to the bottom of the page, and clicking on
  the REGISTER button.
- 2. Fill in as much information as possible, ensuring that contact information is current and allows for a direct link to the POC of the laboratory. To ensure access privileges, select the purpose of your visit from the pull-down menu. An email will be sent within 30 minutes confirming the new user name and password.
- 3. Once logged into the DoD Directory of Public Health Services, the Advance Search page appears. You can then type in the name of a desired agent or disease to be searched, using either the full term or fragments thereof. For instance, when searching for the agent the West Nile Virus, the user may type in the entire name or just the partial name "West" and then click **SEARCH**.

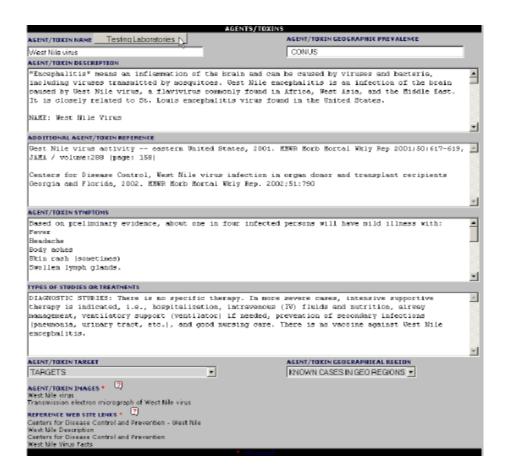


4. The Advance Search page also provides an option for browsing through the Directory's entire list of Diseases, Agents, or Laboratories. For example, to view a list of all agents included in the Directory, the user can click on the **AGENT** link on the top left of the screen and choose **LIST ALL AGENTS** from the drop-down menu. All agents included in the Directory are listed in alphabetical order. To find information on any particular agent, such as West Nile virus, choose the agent and then click **DETAIL**.



5. The detail page includes comprehensive information regarding the selected agent including its general characteristics, ranging from its mode of transmission to diagnosis and treatment, to internet links to images and additional references.

6. For those registered users with proper authorization, the **TESTING LABORATORIES** tab appears above the Agent/Toxin Description. When clicking on this tab, a list of all DoD military medical facilities capable of testing for this agent will appear. Specific information about each of these laboratories is available by clicking on the individual laboratory name.



## **Important Reminders/Coming Soon:**

- The Directory is available online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is linked through the AFIP and GEIS Homepages for easy access and can also be searched using Yahoo, Google, or other search engines
- A link on the Homepage to archives to past issues of the Directory of DoD Public Health Laboratory Services Newsletters, thus chronicling all featured tutorials for an easily accessible How-To Guide to the Directory
- New message board allowing an easier way of communicating questions and concerns to the Directory Staff